



Alabama Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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October 31, 2008; Volume III Issue XIX

*****Special Edition*****

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Partnership for Children voted unanimously in support of the Rainy Day Amendment on the November 4 ballot. We encourage everyone who works on behalf of Alabama children and families to learn more and have attached a brief on the amendment. Please pass along to everyone who shares our mission that "Every Alabama Child Will Have the Opportunity to Succeed in Life."



The ABCs of the Rainy Day Amendment November 4 – Amendment 1

Tax revenues will not be enough to fully fund the Fiscal Year 2009 Education Budget. This means proration and funding will be cut to schools in order to balance the Budget.



WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

- ▶ Alabama's public schools are performing at the highest academic levels ever.
- ▶ Alabama's fourth graders led the nation in reading gain last year.
- ▶ Alabama's fourth and eighth graders improved at twice the national average in math gain last year.
- ▶ Alabama's high school students made gains on both ACT and SAT scores, and every minority group in Alabama outscored their peers nationally on both tests.
- ▶ Alabama high school students increased Advanced Placement participation by 24% while the nation increased 8%.
- ▶ Alabama schools made Adequate Yearly Progress gains even as the level of difficulty increased.
- ▶ All of the positives listed above will be jeopardized unless the Rainy Day Fund Amendment (Amendment 1) is adopted on November 4.



WHAT IT DOES

- ▶ It repeals the 2002 amendment adopted by Alabama voters on June 4, 2002.
- ▶ The 2002 amendment is flawed in that it "capped" the amount of money that could be temporarily transferred to education from the Alabama Trust Fund (\$3 billion in oil and gas royalties) at 6% of the Fiscal Year 2002 Education Trust Fund Budget--\$248 million.
- ▶ The proposed amendment changes the wording to 6.5% of the previous year's adopted Education Trust Fund Budget. In today's terms that means 6.5% of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget totaling \$6.7 billion--\$435 million.
- ▶ It helps all of education (k-12, postsecondary, and higher education) and it also creates a Rainy Day Fund for the General Fund so that vital state services in public health, human resources, Medicaid, and mental health will not be cut drastically in one year.
- ▶ It gives the State of Alabama the ability to level out cuts over more than one year in times of proration rather than make life-altering cuts in one year.



WHAT IT DOES NOT DO

- ▶ It does not raise taxes.
- ▶ It does not put the state into "Wall Street" type debt.
- ▶ It does not cut education funding in the middle of a school year.
- ▶ It does not slash jobs in the middle of a school year.
- ▶ It does not raid local school systems' individual rainy day funds that have taken five to ten years to create.
- ▶ It does not allow education to keep funds from the Alabama Trust Fund. Any money transferred to prevent proration must be returned to the Alabama Trust Fund within six years, so there is strong accountability.



Keeping you informed on the issues.

Information provided by Alabama Department of Education